

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT
DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0050237-09-0

Permittee: Agropur Inc Luxemburg, N2915 County Road AB, Luxemburg, WI, 54217-7713

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Agropur Inc Luxemburg, N2915 County Road AB, Luxemburg, WI

Receiving Water and Location: an unnamed tributary of the East Twin River of the East Twin River Watershed (TK02) of the Twin-Door-Kewaunee River Basin and groundwater via landspreading in Kewaunee, Manitowoc & Brown Counties

Brief Facility Description: Agropur Inc in Luxemburg operates a cheese manufacturing and whey processing facility in southern Kewaunee County. The facility and wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) were upgraded in 2014 to accommodate an increased flow from a production increase. The WWTP currently consists of an equalization tank, anaerobic conditioning tank, two anaerobic digesters, anoxic selector tank, aeration basin, secondary clarification, post aeration tank, and a DAF and belt filter press for sludge dewatering and thickening. Chemical addition of ferric chloride and polymer are added for phosphorus removal and additional sludge thickening and solids removal, respectively. Outfall 009 discharges to an unnamed tributary of the East Twin River and consists of the combination of treated process wastewater, excess polished condensate of whey (COW), retentate from the industrial reverse osmosis (RO) unit, and noncontact cooling water (NCCW). High strength wastewater that was previously segregated and land applied is now treated in the WWTP and discharged as treated process wastewater. The facility still has the option of segregating high strength waste for land application to approved sites and storage facilities via Outfall 002, as necessary. The high strength wastewater could be comprised of whey, whey-by-products, permeate, antibiotic contaminated milk, separator desludge and/or cooker water. Sludge from the WWTP was previously land applied on approved sites via Outfall 004 but is now disposed of at a landfill. The facility still has the option of land applying sludge to approved sites via Outfall 004 if that is deemed necessary. An additional emergency outfall (Outfall 005) has been retained for land application of untreated process wastewater in the event of an emergency.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sarah Donoughe, DNR, 2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, (920) 366-6076, Sarah.Donoughe@Wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Laura Gerold, DNR, 2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, (920) 366-6728, Laura.Gerold@Wisconsin.gov

Date of Public Notice of Intent to Reissue: February 25, 2021

The Department has tentatively decided that the above specified WPDES permit should be reissued.

Virtual Hearing Date and Time: Monday, May 10, 2021 10:00 AM

Hearing Location (Virtual): In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency and the Governor's Safer at Home mandate, the Department of Natural Resources will be hosting public hearings via a remote, virtual connection made available to the public via the options below. Virtual hearings will be recorded.

Remote Connection for public participation:

Zoom Virtual Participation: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82142644136>

Meeting ID: 821 4264 4136

Zoom Conference Call Line: 1 312 626 6799: If participating via conference call, participants will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID: 821 4264 4136

For questions on how to connect remotely please contact: Stephen Nehring, DNR, 101 S. Webster St. PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921, (608) 261-6406, Stephen.Nehring@Wisconsin.gov

The Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to Section 283.49, Wisconsin Statutes, has scheduled for the time and place listed above, a public hearing for the purpose of giving all interested persons an opportunity to make a statement with respect to the above announced permit action for this existing discharge.

A hearing officer will conduct the hearing in an orderly and speedy way and will use procedures specified in Subchapter II of ch. NR 203, Wis. Adm. Code, necessary to insure broad public participation in the hearing.

The hearing officer will open the hearing and make a concise statement of the scope and purpose of the hearing and shall state what procedures will be used during the course of the hearing. The hearing officer shall explain the method of notification of the final decision to grant or deny the permit and the methods by which the decision may be reviewed in a public adjudicatory hearing.

The hearing officer may put limits on individual oral statements to ensure an opportunity for all persons present to make statements in a reasonable period of time and to prevent undue repetition. The hearing officer may also limit the number of representatives making oral statements on behalf of any person or group.

Informational and clarifying questions and oral statements shall be directed through the hearing officer. Cross-examination shall not be allowed.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action are invited to do so by attending the public hearing or by submitting any comments or objections in writing to the Department of Natural Resources, at the above named permit drafter's address. Currently, DNR staff are working remotely and have very limited access to US mail. To ensure comments are received, the Department recommends that all comments be sent via email to the permit drafter listed in this notice. All comments or suggestions received from members of the public no later than 7 days following the date of this public hearing will be used, along with other information on file and testimony presented at the hearing, in making a final determination. Where designated as a reviewable surface water discharge permit, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is allowed up to 90 days to submit comments or objections regarding this permit determination.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit, fact sheet and permit application, is accessible via e-mail by contacting the above named permit drafter's e-mail address or the above named basin engineer's e-mail during normal business hours Monday through Friday (except holidays). Note that DNR staff have limited access to permit hard copy files during this time as they are working from home, but much of the permit file is available electronically by e-mail request. Permit information is also available on the internet at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

NAME OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Green Bay Press Gazette

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: PO Box 23430, Green Bay, WI 54305-3430

Date Notice Issued: Wednesday, April 7, 2021